

A new proposal for improving Michigan's method of selecting Supreme Court Justices

By Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver

Michigan's method of selecting Supreme Court Justices has come under intense scrutiny over the past year. The high degree of interest has been generated by a Supreme Court campaign that was the most expensive and rancorous in state history. The public was subjected to false statements, half-truths, and distortions about candidates and the Court. Despite the amounts of money raised and spent — a reported \$16 million this year — I believe the public is now less accurately informed about the Court and the judiciary than before the campaign. Such campaigns serve only to cause confusion and undermine public trust and confidence in our judicial system.

Calls are now coming forward to change Michigan's system. For exploration, I offer the proposal outlined below, which I refer to as the modified federal plan for the selection of

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The Michigan Supreme Court's goals for the judiciary:

Fairness

Accessibility

Accountability

Effectiveness

Responsiveness

Independence

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New proposal for improving the method of selecting justices

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Michigan Supreme Court Justices. The modified federal plan strives to move the selection of Justices from a battleground funded by special interests to an arena of representative democracy. It is designed to strengthen the independence of the Supreme Court by making it unnecessary for Justice candidates and sitting Justices to raise funds for an election campaign or for sitting Justices to curry favor with any authority holding the power of reappointment. It is also designed to enhance media coverage of the selection process, increase public input into that process, and improve public understanding of the role of the judiciary. It will allow the public to hold the appointing Governor and consenting Senators directly accountable.

Here is how the modified federal plan would work.

- The Governor would appoint each Justice for one non-renewable 14-year term. Each appointment would be subject to confirmation by the state Senate.
- One seat would come up for appointment every two years in non-election years. The Senate would be required to hold at least one public hearing during the confirmation process.
- The Governor would have a defined time to make an appointment; failure of the Governor to act by the deadline would give the Senate the authority to make the appointment. The Senate would have a defined time from the date of the Governor's appointment to confirm or reject the appointee; failure of the Senate to act by the deadline would make the Governor's appointment final.
- Appointments to fill partial-term vacancies that arise by retirement, death, or impeachment would follow the same process from the date of vacancy. The appointments would not be renewable at the end of the partial term.

The modified federal plan for the selection of Michigan Supreme Court Justices comports with representative democracy by placing selection decisions in the hands of individuals (the Governor and Senators) who are directly accountable to the public. Media and public scrutiny are encouraged through the use of an orderly process that puts forward one candidate at a time in a non-election year so as to reduce or eliminate public confusion over candidate names, credentials and challengers. The public hearing requirement further informs and empowers the public. The process also has the benefit of a defined beginning and end.

Michigan's present system for electing Supreme Court justices involves partisan nominations or qualifying petitions and non-partisan ballot elections. I believe the alternatives some states have adopted are flawed. The Missouri Plan and its variations merely move elections to another point in the selection and re-selection process. They still require justices facing retention votes to promote themselves with the help of fund-raising activities. The use of merit selection committees to identify Justice candidates for appointment or reappointment or to actually make the appointment unduly empowers special interests. These committees are often hidden from view. Their members and the interests they represent are not always easy to determine and, importantly, cannot be held accountable by the public.

The balance of powers inherent in Michigan state government, as established by our

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Michigan Supreme Court **REPORT**

The *Michigan Supreme Court Report* is published by the Michigan Supreme Court.

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Chief Justice addresses SOCC on salaries

The following remarks were presented by Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver to the State Officers Compensation Commission (SOCC) on November 28, 2000. The commission sets salaries for the governor, lieutenant governor, Supreme Court justices and legislators for a two-year period. The members of the 2000 SOCC are Robert Webster (chair), Birmingham; Ronald N. Weiser (vice chair), Ann Arbor; Arthur Blackwell, Detroit; Lewis N. Dodak, Lansing; Eugene A. Gargaro, Jr., Grosse Pointe Shores; and Dr. Gordone Guyer, East Lansing.

Thank you for inviting me to appear today. I want to share with you information about what the judiciary is accomplishing. I have for each of you a copy of my State of Judiciary message that I delivered to the Legislature this past September. From it you will see that the judiciary is working hard to have the courts of our state be as fair, efficient, effective, timely, without prejudice or bias as possible. Let me point out some highlights.

- The Michigan Supreme Court has outpaced its caseload this year,

continuing a trend begun two years ago. In 1999 we disposed of nearly 2,600 cases or over 300 more than were filed. Our backlog is less than half of what it was in 1995. And the Court has decided its cases well within the time guidelines recommended for state Supreme Courts by the American Bar Association.

- The ABA standards call for 50% of cases to be decided within 290 days of the date they are filed. Last

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constitution, needs judges able to render judicial decisions independently. It also needs a public well informed about the candidates, the courts, and the judicial issues that affect their lives. I believe the modified federal plan for selection of Michigan Supreme Court Justices advances these needs. I do not claim that the modified federal plan is perfect, but after much consideration I believe it is better than our present Michigan system for selecting Justices and other systems I have researched.

This Dec. 7-9, a team, including Sen. Ken Sikkema, former State Bar of Michigan President Jon Muth, and myself, will attend a conference on judicial selection in Chicago sponsored by the National Center for State Courts. The center has invited the chief justices of the 15 largest states with judicial elections (contested or retention) to discuss issues and potential solutions.

At the conference, I look forward to hearing ideas on how the judicial election system might be improved and to sharing the perspective of my judicial experience. I am completing my 26th year as a judge: twelve (12) years with the Leelanau County Probate Court, eight (8) years with the Court of Appeals, and six (6) years with the Supreme Court. I have never been appointed to a judgeship, but have been elected six times. In my three contested elections, the election districts ranged from one county of less than 15,000 people, to 66 counties of 3.1 million, to the entire state of 83 counties of 9.3 million. Over the years, I have witnessed the increasing cost of Supreme Court campaigns, particularly through the 1990s, and a marked and serious shift toward public attacks on judicial candidates and the institution. Surely we can do better.

I welcome your thoughts as we explore the idea of a proposed modified federal plan for the selection of Michigan Supreme Court Justices.

Chief Justice addresses SOCC on salaries

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"I don't think there's any danger of the justices being overpaid, and I want to see judges in the state paid properly."

*— Chief Justice
Elizabeth A. Weaver*

year we met this deadline in 81% of the cases, and this year our performance is even better, at 87%.

- The Supreme Court has inaugurated a new series of trial court experiments (known as demonstration courts) to explore innovative ways of serving the public better at the community level. The chief judges of these courts and their colleagues, like their predecessors at our first seven demonstration courts, are working long hours to: consolidate services, schedule cases more predictably, improve technology, increase the collection of fines and costs, introduce online services, and provide "one-stop-shopping" for the public.
- The Supreme Court is assisting the implementation of therapeutic drug courts across the state to combine tough enforcement techniques with individualized services in helping non-violent offenders break the cycle of substance abuse and crime.
- The Supreme Court has established a statewide Guardianship Ombudsman to help communities: strengthen services to adults who cannot care for themselves and investigate alleged abuses.
- The Court has also: revised its court rules to encourage the use of mediation and other methods of settling cases before trial, reorganized the annual judicial conference to strengthen the continuing education of our judges, codified standards for court records, developed ways to promote the importance of jury service, and implemented policies to expand public access to Supreme Court records and administrative processes.

The past two years have indeed been busy. With so many new initiatives in the works, the next two will be busier still. The Supreme Court has committed itself to the path of improved court service statewide. It is a credit to all of our justices and judges that so much has been accomplished, and that the future holds such abundant promise.

While it is never comfortable or easy to talk about compensation for oneself, I am here to offer information that will help you meet your important responsibility to recommend to the legislature what the top state officials should be paid. For the over 600 Michigan trial and appellate judges, this is particularly very important, for their compensation is by statute a percentage of a Supreme Court justice's compensation.

At present you know that the Supreme Court Justices receive approximately \$10,000 less than the Governor. I believe this is an appropriate differential as the Governor is the one head of the executive branch and the seven Justices together are the head of the coequal judicial branch. The Governor and the justices are responsible for the efficient operation of their respective branches, and for maintaining the public's trust and confidence in each.

The Governor, as you know, is in charge of a multi-billion dollar budget, the largest in the state. His responsibilities surpass those of the presidents of our major universities and the mayor of Detroit, all of whom receive significantly higher compensation. For example, several university presidents receive over \$200,000/yr and the Detroit Mayor receives \$175,000/yr, yet the Governor receives \$151,000/yr.

The Supreme Court Justices must oversee the operation of a judicial system comprised of over 600 judges and more

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State court administrator provides SOCC detail

State Court Administrator John Ferry provided the following information to the SOCC after Chief Justice Weaver's remarks on November 28, 2000.

Chief Justice Weaver made a point of indicating that she thought it was appropriate that the Governor should be the highest paid elected official, and suggested that the salary for Justices should continue to be set at a level of approximately \$10,000 less than that of the Governor.

To give you a few examples of what would happen using this approach:

- If the Commission were to increase the Governor's salary approximately 10%, to \$166,000, the Justices' salaries would then be set, obviously, at \$156,000.
- If then an additional approximate 10% increase were made to the Governor's salary, to \$183,000,

the Justices' salaries would be set at \$173,000.

The approach is obviously straightforward. (It is simply a matter of subtracting \$10,000 from the salary set for the Governor). Historically, the Justices' salaries have been somewhat less than that of the Governor, though not uniformly in absolute terms or proportionately. Since 1980, the Governor's salary has ranged from being \$1,336 less than a justices' salary (1987) to only \$77 more than a justices' salary (1988) to the current \$10,429 more than a justices' salary.

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than 250 courts. They and our trial court judges must work with a complicated court funding system. That system provides state funding for the appellate courts, but a mix of state and predominantly local funding for our trial courts. In order to meet our administrative goals, our judges are working with multiple funding units at the state and local levels all the time. In addition, current events have made clear nationally the importance of the decision-making power of judges. So, we must attract judges of courage, commitment, wisdom, and independence who will "Do Right and Fear Not."

Whatever you decide to recommend for the Governor, I sincerely request you treat the Supreme Court in the same manner and

keep the \$10,000 differential between the Governor and the Supreme Court.

Our constitutionally-provided State Court Administrator, John Ferry, is here to present to you more specific information about the judiciary. All 600-plus judges, including those in our appellate courts, are dependent upon your recommendation for proper and appropriate compensation in recognition of their dedication to the pursuit of justice in Michigan.

Thank you.

State court administrator provides SOCC detail

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Comparative Salary Information

I would like to provide some comparative data, as well, regarding the federal system. The current federal salaries are (as of January 1, 1998):

Federal Judiciary Salaries Effective 01-01-98

Court of Last Resort <i>US Supreme Court</i>	\$173,600
Intermediate Appellate Court <i>US Circuit Court of Appeals</i>	\$149,900
Trial Court <i>US District Court</i>	\$141,300

It is our understanding that a raise for federal judges is to be considered this year or early next year.

Nationally, justices' salaries range from \$83,550 in Montana to \$153,052 in Illinois. The salaries for supreme court justices in the nation's most populous states range from \$113,000 in Texas (where there are two courts of last resort) to \$153,052 in Illinois. (See map below.)

Michigan Judiciary

Michigan, as the Chief noted, has more than 250 courts, including the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals:

1 Supreme Court
7 Justices

1 Court of Appeals
28 Judges

57 Circuit Courts
210 Judges

116 District Courts
(Counts election divisions of a court separately)
259 Judges

5 Municipal Courts
6 Judges

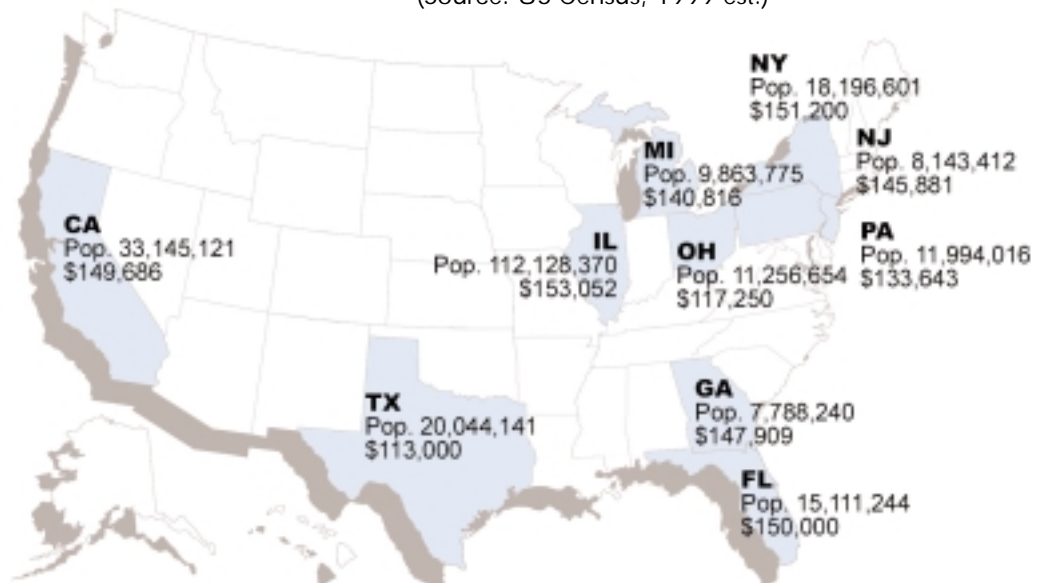
78 Probate Courts
106 Judges (14 part-time)
(Most also assigned to the the family division of the circuit court)

9,500 Employees

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State Supreme Court Salaries

(Source: US Census, 1999 est.)



Chief Judge Howard speaks to SOCC

Oakland Circuit Court Chief Judge Barry Howard made the following remarks to the SOCC on November 28, 2000. Chief Judge Howard is president of the Michigan Judges Association and a member of the Chief Justice's Council of Chief Judges.

Ispeak today on behalf of all judges and elected officials of this state in urging this commission to support a very substantial increase in compensation for the years of 2001 and 2002.

Your task will not be easy, nor will it be popular. You may be harshly criticized and scorned for your decision, but that decision has a direct impact on the quality of governance of our state. Motivation and public service must be coupled with basic economic equities to attract the very best to our halls of government. Throughout our history, dedicated men and women chose the career of public service to improve and to advance the goals of a better society. They chose to put the public good above their own, so that society could progress to a higher plain because of their dedication. This equation

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The Supreme Court appoints chief judges in each of those courts as chief administrative officers to manage the business affairs of those courts, and establishes administrative policy for those chief judges to use in managing their courts.

Caseload

The caseload in Michigan's trial courts for 1999 was 3,800,000. Excluding civil traffic cases, the total caseload was 1,800,000. Circuit courts (including the family division of the circuit court, to which most of Michigan's probate judges are assigned) handled over 365,162 cases, the probate courts handled nearly 85,000 cases, and district and municipal courts handled nearly 1,400,000 cases (ranging from criminal traffic to civil matters to felonies through preliminary examination).

As the Chief indicated, the Michigan Supreme Court completed nearly 2,600 cases in 1999, over 300 more than filed.

The Michigan Court of Appeals received over 7,700 filings and disposed of just a few less than filed in 1999.

Caseload Statistics — 1999

Court

<i>Supreme Court</i>	
Filings	2,246
Completed	2,571

<i>Court of Appeals</i>	
Filings	7,731
Completed	7,715

Trial Courts

<i>Filings</i>	
<i>Circuit Court</i>	365,162
<i>Probate Court</i>	84,291
<i>District Court</i>	
(w/o civil traffic)	1,390,976

Total Trial Courts	1,840,429
(w/o civil traffic)	
Civil Traffic	1,940,029

Total Trial Courts	3,780,458
(w/civil traffic)	

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of public service has been dramatically altered by the effects of term limitations. The electorate, in its wisdom, imposed limits of either six or eight years upon our elected public servants. People who had dedicated themselves to a lifetime of the public's good had, themselves, been curtailed. Careers which had so influenced this state, were now to be extinguished, and the institutional memory and achievement would be left to others that were not elected or inexperienced. The public career had been short-circuited and left to others, whose impact would be narrowed by an imposed limitation of time.

Those now entering the elected role of governing are forced to interrupt and inhibit their careers at a profound sacrifice. They can no longer expect their toiling of a lifetime to enhance the public good, but rather, must sacrifice their careers for a short time hiatus and then hope to be able to resume their past.

This is a difficult and enormous sacrifice for those who make this calling. Many, in spite of the best intentions, taking into account their and their families' needs, are no longer able to do that, thus eliminating many who should and want to serve.

To ensure the best are attracted, compensation must be at a level to minimize those interruptions and sacrifices. To do otherwise will force the very best away from the corridors of elected leadership and limit and exclude those who would best serve the public's needs.

The quality of governing is created by the quality of the people who govern. To eliminate the very best is to reduce that very quality which is essential to the role of governance. These limitations, which so profoundly affect our legislative branch of government, cast aside lifetimes of experiences and public service, and create the personal and professional upheaval that dramatically impacts governing policy. To ensure that those who will be the future will maintain the dedication and competence of those that were the past, compensation must rise dramatically for our legislators.

Whether you agree with his policies or not, this governor has had a profound impact on this state. The goals that he has established, he has met. He has led our state with direction and distinction. Where else could a multi-billion dollar entity be led by a person making \$150,000? The compensation for Michigan's chief executive is out of line with his responsibilities and duties. As new people are attracted to that position in the future, they must be assured that their families are provided for and their sacrifices will be cushioned for their loved ones.

These last several days have shown the need for an impartial, temperate, fair, and independent judiciary. The disputes that shape a nation are put before the courts. Those decisions which affect us all must be made by the very best. When new law school graduates are given \$110,000 starting salaries in Detroit, are recruited with offers of \$125,000 from Chicago and more from New York, it points to the inequity of judicial compensation. When lawyers straight out of law school receive remuneration greater than most of our experienced judges, there is a dramatic problem. To attract and maintain those who must make the most difficult decisions, there must be compensation which is both fair and equitable. Neither of these applies to the present system.

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Investing time with new officials pays off in strong relationships

by Anne M. Vrooman
Director of Intergovernmental Relations

January will bring a change of faces to many local county commission boards and state representative offices. Establishing a positive working relationship with new commissioners and legislators is key to creating better understanding of the judiciary. Here are a few suggestions for judges to consider.

1. Call new commissioners and legislators to let them know that you are available to answer questions or provide information.

2. Follow-up your conversations by sending them appropriate information (reports, project descriptions, etc.).

3. Consider preparing a local state of the judiciary, to highlight accomplishments as well as concerns of the judiciary.

4. Consider establishing a regular informal meeting with members of local government and state legislators, such as a monthly breakfast meeting. Building a relationship without an issue-driven agenda is often the key to developing a better understanding of each others' role and responsibility, and provides a more solid foundation to work with when specific issues must be resolved.

5. Keep in mind that in most instances, if you are only showing up at budget time you are not working to your full advantage. You are competing with all of the other voices that must be heard and it is difficult to have attention focused on the details that you want to communicate.

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The fate of a nation, dependent upon the judicial process, must provide to those called upon to render its opinion, the compensation necessary to ensure a judiciary that is up to the mammoth task it is called upon to perform. To settle disputes in courtrooms instead of the streets requires the confidence and acceptance of those decisions. Those decisions made by the men and women of the judiciary must be of a caliber necessary to gain public acquiescence. To attract the judiciary able to meet the task requires the compensation to recruit and to keep judges who have the ability to render the type of justice that the business of the nation demands.

At a time of great strife, there is also great opportunity. We look to you to do the public good. We look to you to make the difficult decisions necessary to advance governance. We look to you to have the courage of conviction to insist that those charged with advancing and protecting the public are given the tools to attract the very best. We look to you to very substantially increase the compensation of our elected public officials. By doing that, then you serve the public.

State law library has answers for you

*By Nancy Whitmer
Library of Michigan, State Law Library*

If you are a court employee and can answer “yes” to any of the questions below, you should be utilizing the services available from the Library of Michigan, State Law Library.

- Are you unsure about the accuracy of that legal material you downloaded from the Internet?
- Do you have the most current version of the administrative rules you need?
- Are you having trouble finding biographical information about a Michigan judge?
- Do you need federal or other states’ statutes on a particular subject?
- Do you want to know how the courts of other states have decided a certain issue?
- Would you like to find journal articles that discuss a well-known court decision?
- Are you looking for an early Restatement section and the accompanying case annotations?
- Would it be helpful to have a legislative analysis of a Michigan bill that became law 10 years ago?
- Do you need the phone number of a trial court judge in another state?
- Are you looking for a classic 19th century treatise on property law?
- Do you need to see how a Michigan statute read in 1967?
- Do you wish to request legal research training?
- Would you like a tour of the State Law Library?

The Library of Michigan, State Law Library is located in Lansing on the first floor of the G. Mennen Williams Building at the corner of Ottawa and Pine Streets.

Visit the State Law Library:

- 525 W. Ottawa
Lansing, MI 48933
- PH: 517/373-0630
- Email: lmllib@libofmich.lib.mi.us
- Web: libraryofmichigan.org/law/lawlib.html

Administrative Update

Deadlines fast approaching for Friend of the Court reports

The Friend of the Court Act (MCL 552.519, MSA 25.176(19)) requires the Friend of the Court Bureau (FOCB)/SCAO to issue an annual report to the legislature containing a detailed summary of the type and status of the grievances received by each friend of the court office. The report to the legislature will be compiled and issued shortly after the due date, and those offices not reporting will be listed as “failed to report.”

The act also requires that each office biannually submit a record of grievances to the FOCB. Grievances listed as “pending response” on the Jan. 1 to June 30 report should have their resolution recorded on this report. Grievances pending on the July 1 to Dec. 31 report should be listed as “pending response” at the end of the year, and should not be listed on the next biannual report.

All grievance reports for the second half of the year must be submitted to the FOCB prior to Jan. 15, 2001, using SCAO Form 28 (rev 3/98). (Older versions of this form should be destroyed.) Questions regarding the grievance reports should be directed to William J. Bartels. PH: 517/373-5975. Email: bartelsb@jud.state.mi.us.

The FOC Statistical Report (SCAO Form 41 (10/00)), which was recently distributed to all friend of the court offices, must be submitted to the FOCB by no later than Feb. 15, 2001.

For additional copies of the FOC Statistical Report form or instructions, contact Darla Brandon. PH: 517/373-4835. Email: brandond@jud.state.mi.us.

Questions regarding the FOC Statistical Report should be directed to Tim Cole. PH: 517/373-9663. Email: colet@jud.state.mi.us.

LEIN entry changes for failure to appear, compliance warrants

Beginning Dec. 7, all civil infraction warrants for “failure to appear” or “failure to comply with judgment” must designate whether the underlying charge was written under statute or ordinance. In addition, a description of the underlying charge must be entered in the remarks field. For example, “failed to yield right of way.”

After the effective date, courts entering their own warrants must use one of the new charge codes: 0080 - Civil Infraction, Local Ordinance; or 0081-Civil Infraction, State Law.

This requirement is being added because the Michigan State Police do not have arrest authority for civil infraction warrants arising out of an ordinance violation. Local and county law enforcement agencies do have arrest authority for all civil infraction warrants regardless of whether the underlying charge is a statute or ordinance offense.

For information on LEIN entries, contact LEIN/AFIS Field Services. PH: 517/336-6167.

Administrative Update

State Bar admissions require proper procedures

This is a reminder that persons who are not currently sitting Justices of the Supreme Court or judges of the circuit court lack jurisdiction to entertain motions for admission to the practice of law in this state. (See MCL 600.910; MSA 27A.910)

The Judicial Assignment Guidelines (under the heading “Procedure for swearing-in ceremonies for attorneys”) set forth the procedure for securing the necessary judicial assignment for this purpose. (See also MCL 600.913; MSA 27A.913)

Remember that an order of admission must be prepared for the Supreme Court Clerk for entry in the Roll of Attorneys and for the applicant to submit to the State Bar of Michigan with his or her application for membership in that organization.

Questions regarding the proper procedure should be directed to the Supreme Court Clerk’s Office. PH: 517/373-0120. EMAIL: msc_clerk@jud.state.mi.us.

Oath of office filing guidelines recapped

Judicial oaths of office for all newly-elected and re-elected judges must be filed with the county clerk(s) in the judge’s jurisdiction. A copy should also be filed with the Secretary of State, Office of the Great Seal, Library and Historical Center, 717 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48918-1750. One copy of the oath should also be filed with SCAO-Central office in Lansing.

SCAO establishes standards for digital audio recording system

Courts are reminded that each court wishing to use a digital audio recording system must comply with the standards established in SCAO Administrative Memorandum 2000-05. Copies of the administrative memo, the standards, a digital audio recording systems standards checklist, and a glossary were distributed to all courts.

The checklist (SCAO 56) must be completed by courts and submitted to SCAO for approval prior to using the system. *Each court must obtain approval for its own system.* Courts that have purchased digital audio recording systems but have not yet obtained SCAO approval are required to submit a completed checklist promptly.

For more information or to request a copy of the standards, checklist, or glossary, contact Matt Hanley, Trial Court Services. PH: 517/373-7498.

Administrative Update

New magistrates required to complete MJJ training

As a reminder, all new magistrates must complete a statutorily required training program prior to conducting informal civil infraction hearings. This training program is administered by the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI) and consists of two phases. The first phase involves completion of a self-instructional training package, radar ride-along and one-day mentor visitation. After completion, the magistrate receives provisional authorization to conduct informal hearings.

The second phase of the training process is attendance at the yearly New Magistrate Seminar. Full authorization to conduct informal civil infraction hearings is then granted by the state court administrator.

This year's New Magistrate Seminar is scheduled for March 7-9, 2001, at the Sheraton Hotel, Lansing. Please note that new magistrates must have completed the first phase of the training process 30 days in advance of the seminar, or by Feb. 7, 2001, in order to be eligible to attend the 2001 seminar. New magistrates completing the requirements after the Feb. 7 deadline will receive provisional authorization to conduct informal hearings that will extend until the 2002 seminar.

Questions should be directed to Cathy Cecot or Cynthia Kruska at MJI. PH: 517/334-7805.

Local court asks court users "What do you think of us?"

The judges, administrators and staff of 35th District Court conducted public meetings and developed questionnaires to survey the citizens and officials of the five communities served. The questionnaire was printed in newspapers, placed in libraries and community centers, and distributed to courthouse visitors.

The court then published the results of the meetings and surveys, along with detailed information concerning the court. For more information, or to receive a copy of the survey, *What Do You Think of Us?*, contact the 35th District Court. PH: 734/459-4740. Email: kerdman@35thdistrictcourt.org.

NJC makes volunteer recruitment resources available for courts

Over the past forty years, "volunteer in probation" programs and other community volunteer programs have assisted courts in combating juvenile delinquency and its progression into adult criminal offenses. To assist courts in recruiting volunteers to serve as juvenile and misdemeanor court mentors, retired Michigan judge Keith J. Leenhouts, co-director of the Court Volunteer Services Division of the National Judicial College (NJC), has authored a publication titled *Misdemeanor Courts, Hope for Crime Weary America*.

The publication is available free online, at www.olemiss.edu/depts/mjc/volunteer.html. Additional resources for developing volunteer programs in family and district courts are available from the Court Volunteer Services Division of the NJC on its web site at www.judges.org.

Administrative Update

Oakland County judge receives national recognition

Chief Judge Pro Tem Joan Young of Oakland County Circuit Court recently received the “Angels of Adoption” award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption in Washington, D.C. She was nominated for the award by U.S. House Rep. Joe Knollenberg of Bloomfield Hills.

According to Young, “Adoption is the joy of my job. I really feel strongly that I’ve made a tremendous difference in the lives of the families I’ve brought together.”

Young served on a commission that helped redefine Michigan’s adoption laws in the early ‘90s.

Pair of judges attend conference on judicial ethics

Court of Appeals Judge William Murphy and 36th District Court Judge Theresa Doss were among the attendees at the Seventh Annual National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics. The conference, held in Chicago, was sponsored by the American Judicature Society.

Both judges, who currently serve on the state’s Judicial Tenure Commission, were awarded a scholarship by the State Justice Institute (SJI) to underwrite some of their expenses at the College. SJI is a non-profit organization established by federal law to award grants for the improvement of the quality of justice in state courts nationwide.

Also in attendance at the conference was Carole Chiamp, an attorney who has served on the Judicial Tenure Commission since Jan. 1.

Macomb County receives BJA grant

The Macomb County Juvenile Court, in partnership with Care House, will receive approximately \$150,000 to provide juvenile sex offenders with individual, group, and family therapy while incarcerated and follow up counseling and monitoring after release from the Macomb County Youth Home. This grant is one of 22 awards that the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is making to communities nationwide to support new approaches to reduce crime and encourage collaboration in the criminal justice system.

The Macomb County Juvenile Court, in collaboration with Care House, a local agency, will start the Juvenile Sex Offender Reentry Program (JSORP). This program will provide assessment and regular therapy sessions to juvenile sex offenders in the Macomb County Youth Home and will provide various services that include continued counseling, monitoring, and supervision after release. The goal of this program is to break the cycle of sexual abuse and perpetrating behaviors by teaching self-control.

The grant was made under BJA's third annual open solicitation for innovative concepts. BJA received a total of more than 1,300 proposals from state, local and tribal governments and justice agencies.

Changeover

APPOINTMENTS

Celello, Richard J., was appointed to the 41st Circuit Court, to succeed John D. Payant, retired, for a term expiring 12/31/2002.

STATEWIDE ELECTION

Allen, Dorene, elected to serve as probate court judge in P56.

Asadoorian, Lisa L., elected to serve as district court judge in D52-3.

Baird, Laura, elected to serve as circuit court judge in C30.

Berry, Annette J., elected to serve as circuit court judge in C03.

Brennan, Patrick J., elected to serve as circuit court judge in C06.

Buck, Mike, elected to serve as probate court judge in P03.

Butts, Robert John, elected to serve as probate court judge in P16.

Cooper, Jessica R., elected to the Court of Appeals (Region 2). She formerly served as circuit court judge in C06.

D'Agostini, Diane, elected to serve as district court judge in D48.

DeLuca, Frank J., elected to serve as district court judge in D54A.

Fratarcangeli, Mark, elected to serve as district court judge in D40.

Garrett, Ruth Ann, elected to serve as district court judge in D36A.

Gilbert, Tom, elected to serve as district court judge in D86.

Hayes, Norman R., elected to serve as probate court judge in P05. He formerly served as district court judge in D86.

Hillary, Patrick, elected to serve as probate court judge in P41.

Kelly, Kirsten Frank, elected to the Court of Appeals (Region 1). She formerly served as circuit court judge in C03.

Kelly, Timothy J., elected to serve as district court judge in D74.

Manderfield, Paula J., elected to serve as circuit court judge in C30. She formerly served as district court judge in D54A.

Marable, Herman, Jr., elected to serve as district court judge in D68.

McCarthy, Kathleen M., elected to serve as circuit court judge in C03.

Parsons, Charles, elected to serve as probate court judge in P57.

Phillips, Thomas J., elected to serve as district court judge in D86.

Salomone, Geno, elected to serve as district court judge in D23.

Scott, Justus C., elected to serve as probate court judge in P44.

Servitto, Edward A., Jr., elected to serve as circuit court judge in C16.

Shepherd, Doug P., elected to serve as district court judge in D41A.

Skinner, Michael F., elected to serve as probate court judge in P23.

Stowe, David L., elected to serve as probate court judge in P28.

Switalski, Mark S., elected to serve as circuit court judge in C16. He formerly served as district court judge in D39.

Timmers, Steven M., elected to serve as district court judge in D62A.

Torreano, John A., elected to serve as probate court judge in P22.

JTC ELECTION

Kingsley, James C., 37th Circuit Court, Calhoun County, has been elected to the Judicial Tenure Commission as representative of the Circuit Court for a three-year term, commencing Jan. 1, 2001, pursuant to Administrative Order 1991-7.

DEATHS

Burger, Francis E., retired 24th District Court Judge, passed away Oct.30. Judge Burger served as Justice of Peace from 1940-1943; Municipal Judge from 1959-1977 and District Judge from 1977-1979.

Christiansen, Roy H., retired Municipal Court Judge, passed away Oct. 6. Judge Christiansen served from 1969-1974.

Griffin, Rufus, Jr., retired 36th District Judge, passed away Oct. 11. Judge Griffin served from 1983-1995.

December 2000

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| 11 | MJI — Opinion Writing Seminar
Sheraton Hotel, Lansing | 15 | Friend of the Court Assoc.
(FOCA)
Cheers, Mt. Pleasant |
| 12 | MI Family Support Council
Ingham County Building, Lansing | | |

January 2001

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| 8 | Court Administrators Meeting
SCAO, Lansing | 23-25 | MJI — Managing Toward
Excellence: Advanced
Supervision
Kellogg Center, East Lansing |
| 8-12 | MJI — New Judges Seminar
Sheraton Hotel, Lansing | | |
| 9-10 | MJI — On the Record: Specialty
Seminar for New Court
Reporters/Recorders
Sheraton Hotel, Lansing | 24-25 | MJI — Alternative Dispute
Resolution
Sheraton Hotel, Lansing |
| 10 | JIS Circuit Court User Meeting
SCAO, Lansing | 26 | Southwest District Court
Administrators Meeting
56A District Court, Charlotte |
| 11 | JIS Circuit Court User Meeting
SCAO, Lansing | 30-31 | MI Assoc. of Drug Court
Professionals Conference
Lansing Center, Lansing |
| 17 | JIS Circuit Court User Meeting
Comfort Suites, Marquette | | |
| 19 | JIS Circuit Court User Meeting
Otsego Club, Gaylord | | |



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